and money of those persons who come to attend the meetings of those committees?

KUMARI SELJA: Sir, we share the concern of the hon. Member and we are willing to go along with him.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Virendra Kataria.

SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Sir, I don't want to put a supplementary on this question. My supplementary related to Question No. 442.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I thought you are asking a supplementary.

SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: I requested for a supplementary in respect of Question No. 442.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Anyway, you did not get up before I called the next Question. Well, then I go to the next Question. Question No. 444.

National Poultry Development Board

*444. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to constitute a National Poultry Development Board on the lines of the National Dairy Development Board;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b) There is a proposal to constitute a National Poultry Development Board; the details of which are being worked out.

(c) Does not arise.

DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Sir, I am glad for getting a partial positive answer from the Minister, who has stated that there is a proposal to constitute a National Poultry Development Board. Sir, 1½ years back, the same answer was given in this august House by the then Minister of State for Agriculture, Shri Lenka Ji. But so far, a National Poultry Development Board has not been constituted. Therefore, will the hon. Minister give a categorical assurance regarding the time-frame for constituting the National Poultry Development Board?

श्री अरविन्द नेताम : सर, यह नेशनल पोलट्री डेवलपमेंट बोर्ड की स्थापना के बारे में, यह बात सही है कि मेरे सहयोगी ने पिछले साल भी यही दलील दी। इसमें जो भारत सरकार ने, बहुत से स्टेजिस में इस संबंध में चर्चा करना शेष रह गया है और अभी भी चर्चा चल रही है। इसलिए अभी यह कहना कि कब हो जाएगा, यह तो मुश्किल है मेरे लिए, लेकिन फिर भी हम कोशिश कर रहे हैं इसकी जल्दी से जल्दी स्थापना करने की।

DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Sir, 1½ years back, the same answer was given. But still they are not in a position to give the time-frame.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Board is being hatched.

DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: My second supplementary is, all over the world, poultry is recognised as an integral part of agriculture. The National Commission on Agriculture, the NABARD and the various financial institutions also treat poultry as an agricultural activity. But most of the States and the Union Territories have not granted agricultural status to poultry farming.

SHRI ARVIND NETAM: Sir, this is a good suggestion from the hon. Member and we will certainly take up this matter with the State Governments.

श्री भूपेन्द्र सिंह मान : सभापति जी जो नेशनल डेरी डवलपमेंट बोर्ड है वह किसानों के हित में जाने के बजाय लिबरेलाइजेशन के विरोध में जा रहा है। किसानों को दूध मंडी में बेचने के बजाय वह कैन्चर कर रहा है। उसको बेचने

नहीं देता, पूल करवाकर उसकी मंडी में आने नहीं देता । तो यह नेशनल डेरी डवलपमेंट बोर्ड लिबरेल इजेशन पोलिसी के बिल्कुल विरुद्ध जा रहा है । यह किसान के हित में नहीं है, वह किसान के विरोध में जा रहा है । तो क्या यह पोल्ट्री डवलपमेंट बोर्ड भी उसी तरह से किसान को कप्चर करने के लिए बनाएंगे या उसको लिबरेट करने के संबंध में बनायेंगे कि वह जहां जो चाहे बेच सके ?

कृषि मंत्री (श्री बलराम जाखड़): सभापति महोदय, माननीय सदस्य की बिल्कुल गलत धारणा है । नेशनल डेरी डवलपमेंट बोर्ड ने जो काम किया है वह सराहनीय है, मुकाबला नहीं है सारी दुनिया में, हमारा नाम है । हमने 30 लाख टन से आज भी 61 लाख टन दूध पैदा किया है और इस प्रकार से कर रहे हैं । हम कोआपरेटिव सोसायटी के हिसाब से उनको सहायता भी देना चाहते हैं, लेकिन यह प्रश्न है नहीं उनका । दूसरा प्रश्न जो है, वह मदद करने के लिए है, रूकावट के लिए नहीं है । हमारा काम जोड़ना है, आगे बढ़ना है, घटाना नहीं है ।

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Sir, there is a basic difference between poultry farming and dairy development as they exist today. We have poultry farming mostly in the private sector and particularly in Andhra Pradesh and some other parts of South India it is becoming a big business like 2 lakh birds, 3 lakh birds or 5 lakh birds, with a total investment of 60 crores, 70 crores or 80 crores. The structure of poultry farming is not, small. The small farmers are not involved in it. The percentage of production by small farmers is minimal and it is the big business people, multinationals and some of the very renowned people who are engaged in this business. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the proposed National Dairy Development Board would take the specific nature of poultry farming as it exists today; whether they will try to accommodate the big farmers, the big business people or whether they will try to accommodate the small farmers who have been maintaining poultry with 2,000 birds, 3,000 birds or 5,000 birds. Will this Dairy Development Board cater to the needs of small farmers or big farmers? Did his Ministry take note of this basic difference in the structures of dairy development and poultry farming?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the question regarding poultry has to be looked at keeping the futuristic outlets in mind. It is a very good industry. It has a very fine future. That is my conception about it. I want to revolutionise the whole concept of poultry. A small country like Thailand is exporting poultry worth Rs. 550 million whereas we are just there. Though we are the fifth highest producing country of poultry and eggs in the whole world today, I am not satisfied with it. We are going to revoluntionise the whole concept. At the moment 7.8 lakh people are working in this field. The small farmers as well as the big farmers can participate in it. It is not confined to only big farmers. It is also concentrated in small pockets. That small farmers are also engaged in it. They can just put in small things. That is what I am trying to do. I am trying to constitute this National Poultry Development Board so that we can concentrate on it and bring them together, get them market facilities, get them the best material for breeding and egg-laying and this is something going in the right direction because I want India to compete with other countries in the next three or four years when we can produce more, export more, earn more and give more employment to our farmers.

श्री मोहम्मद खलीलुर रहमान: चेयरमेन सर, पिछले 15–20 सालों में जहां तक आन्ध्र प्रदेश का सावल है, पोल्ट्री फार्म एक सनअत की शकल में इख्तयार कर गई है । कई ऐसे पोल्ट्री फार्म हैं, जिसमें लाखों की तादाद में हैं। मगर देखा यह गया है कि आने वाहिद में कोई एक बीमारी आ गई तो उससे वह पूरे के पूरे साफ हो जाते हैं और उसका पूरा नुकसान बेचारे पोल्ट्री फार्म के मालिक को बर्दास्त करना पड़ता है ।

मैं आनरेबल मिनिस्टर से साहब यह जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या इन बीमारियों

के इलाज के लिए आपके पास कोई ऐसी स्कीम है ? आप इस में क्या मदद करेंगे ?

श्री बलराम जाखड़ : ठीक है, माननीय सदस्य ने जो कहा है कि एक नई बीमारी चली है जिसकी वजह से एक करोड़ से ज्यादा चिक्स आंध्र प्रदेश और उसके आस पास के इलाकों में मरे हैं। इसके लिए पूरी इंवेस्टिगेशन की गई । हमारी रिसर्च यूनिट्स ने उनका पता लगाया कि मसला क्या है। There has to be a systematic vaccination of the chickens and the birds. उनको कहा गया कि ठीक ढंग से सफाई रखिए तो यह बीमारी नहीं होगी । इसके साथ ही जो मरे हैं उनको ठीक से नहीं दबाया जाएगा तो भी बीमारी फैलेगी । इसके लिए हमने रेडियो से और दूसरे प्रचार माध्यमों से उनको बताया है । आइंदा ऐसी चीज न हो, इसके लिए उनको बताया गया है कि जब तक बीमारी ठीक न हो जाए तब तक कच्चे न डाले जायें । Because it is a very devastating disease we have to take cognizance of it so that in future such things should not happen.

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: What about providing insurance and compensation to them.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: That has to be done by the farmers themselves because this is such a disease that even the insurance people will feel shy of doing it. So, we must be prepared to undertake all the clinical methods to avert such a catastrophe.

Multiple use Amaranthus

*445. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 'Amaranthus' has had multiple uses in India over a long time both as leafy vegetable and as grain which is used in sweets;

(b) whether any status report has been brought out on this by Rodale Research Institute of Pennsylvania (USA) as this plant is considered to be of very high potential in alleviating hunger; and

(c) whether Government propose to set up a task force on Amaranthus propagation at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the answer is very wonderful. He just said, "Yes, Sir" and "No, Sir".

Sir, 'Amaranthus' is a plant of the tropics. There are about 60 varieties of this plant, out of which 25 varieties are commonly known in our country. They are used both as grain and *subji* which are popularly know as 'Ramdhana' and 'Anardhana' in the northern belt of the country. In Kannada it is known as 'Aravaisppu' and in Tamil as 'Pongaikeepa. It is only used by the poor people of this country. It is used as a food for both human beings and animals. Now it is considered so important that a special magazine is coming out. On 18th December, 1992, I had asked a question in this august House. In spite of my specific quesqtion the hon. Minister has not answered the main thrust of the question. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether a gene bank exists for this plant. I would like to know where it is and how many varieties are there I would like to know what the new knowledge collected on the nutritional aspect is, besides what had already been recorded in the Wealth of India in 1948.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): Sir, it is a very good protein source and it is mostly grown in the Himalayan region and the central hills. It is taken as a leafy vegetable and as a grain also. It is not called 'Anardhana'. 'Anardhana' is made of 'Anar'. But this is 'Ramdhana'. That is what it is called. We are com-